

# FY 2018-19

## WATER RIGHTS FEES



State Water Resources Control Board  
September 20, 2018 – Item 4

# Stakeholder Activity

- Annual stakeholder meetings were held after each iteration of the Governor's Budget was released:
  - February 8, 2018
  - June 14, 2018
  - August 2, 2018

# Water Rights Fund Condition

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	FY 18-19 No Increases	FY 18-19 With Increases
Adjusted Beginning Balance	\$3,374	\$3,374
Total Revenue	\$19,501	\$22,354
Total Expenditures	\$24,897	\$24,897
Increase (Decrease)	(\$5,396)	(\$2,543)
Ending Balance*	(\$555)	\$2,298
Fund Reserve	-2.4%	9.8%

\*Includes Space Optimization Adjustment of \$1,660 and expected salary costs of \$193

# Proposed Fee Increases

- **Permit & License Annual Fee:** Increase the annual fee from \$150 to \$225 and the per acre-foot charge from \$0.069 to \$0.073 per each acre-foot greater than 10 acre-feet.
  - Currently 2,675 of 7,300 fee payers (37%) are paying solely the base fee.
  - Since FY 2003-04, the base fee has increased only a single time from \$100 to \$150 in FY 2011-12, a 50% increase. Over the same period, the per acre-foot charge has increased from \$0.030 to the current fee of \$0.069, a 130% increase.
  - Increasing the base fee 50% would still result in the base fee having increased less than the per acre-foot fee since FY 2003-04, going from \$100 to \$225 (125%) compared to the per acre-foot fee increasing from \$0.030 to \$0.073 (143%).
  - Since the last base fee increase in FY 2011-12, the per acre-foot fee has increased 5 times for a cumulative increase of 38% (from \$0.050 to \$0.069), meanwhile, the total Water Rights budgetary expenditures have increased from \$16.8 million to \$24.8 million, a 48% increase.

# Proposed Fee Increases

- **Pending Application Annual Fee:** Increase base fee from \$150 to \$750 and the per acre-foot charge from \$0.069 to \$0.073 per each acre-foot greater than 10 acre-feet.

# Proposed Fee Increases

- **Temporary Permit for Underground Storage from High-Flow Events:** Increase the fee from \$100 plus \$1.00 per every 100 acre-feet of water diverted in excess of 10,000 acre-feet to 1) an initial fee of \$5,000 plus \$0.10 per acre-foot of diversion requested (or standard temp permit fee if lower); and 2) a renewal fee of \$1,500 plus \$0.20 per acre-foot of actual flow diverted.
  - Discussed fee options at 6 stakeholder meetings in 2016, 2018.
  - Fee proposed by Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District on June 25. They have received temporary permits the last 3 winters.
  - Fees are lower than estimated staff cost to process a permit: ~\$40,000.
  - Continue to monitor and re-assess fees as SGMA is implemented.

# Proposed Fee Increases

- **Modified Registration for Small Domestic Use and Livestock Stock Ponds:**  
Maintain the \$250 registration fee while changing the renewal fee from \$100 every five years to an annual fee phased in at \$50 for FY 2018-19, \$75 for FY 2019-20, and \$100 for FY 2020-21 and thereafter.

# Proposed Fee Increases

- **Modified Registration for Small Domestic Use and Livestock Stock Ponds:**
  - Livestock Stock Ponds: Maximum fee for a single primary owner holding 5 or greater registrations at \$250 (FY 2018-19), \$375 (FY 2019-20) and \$500 (FY 2020-21).
  - Small Domestic Registrations: Discount for qualified low-income residents amounting to 20 percent of the proposed \$100 fee phased-in the following manner: \$40 fee (FY 2018-19), \$60 (FY 2019-20), and \$80 (FY 2020-21).
- **Small Irrigation Use Registration (AB 2121 Area/Non-Cannabis Commercial Crops):** Increase the fee from a \$250 registration fee/\$100 renewal fee every five years to \$750 registration fee/\$100 annual fee.



# Proposed Fee Increases

- **Water Right Application and Petition Filing Fees Cap Levels:** Increase the water right application cap from \$518,899 to \$534,155, the change petition cap from \$6,518 to \$6,710, and the change petition involving a transfer of water pursuant to Water Code section 382, 1435, 1701, 1725, or 1735 cap from \$518,899 to \$534,155.